The Malaysian Public Sector Cybersecurity Strategy: A Review of E-government Legal and Regulatory Framework in Malaysia

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Undeniably, the advancement in ICT has modernized public sector services delivery. Governments worldwide have embraced the use of information technology to deliver a better, more efficient service to citizens, businesses, and agencies through a phenomenon known as electronic government or e-government. The digital transformation of the public sector means that information or data is stored and processed in digital form, or in other words, in cyberspace. By digitizing their operation, the government has opened themselves and made them vulnerable to cyberattacks that will result in threatening disruptions to government services. Through the use of e-government, the public is transmitting their personal, sensitive information through online platforms. Therefore, citizens need assurance that their personal data will be kept private and secure from exploitations, hacks, and breaches. However, the government data center has been subjected as the main target for cybercrime and security threats as they contain various critical private information. Since cybersecurity has become the major concern for national and global security in the 21st century, the government needs to re-evaluate the current legal and regulatory framework at their disposal. Laws should be reassessed and repositioned in order to be enforced in the digital environment, particularly in the context of e-government security. If the government fails to safeguard personal data, prevent data breaches, and protect data from cyberattacks, trust and confidence to use e-government among citizens will be corroded. Consequently, this will lead to the failure of e-government initiatives.

Keywords: E-government, cybersecurity, data protection, law, regulation